

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting a stream of temporally ordered data in a manner which ensures a maximum wait period τ before utilization of the data can commence at a receiving site, comprising the steps of:
dividing the stream of data into a sequence of ~~fragments~~ segments;
dividing said sequence of ~~fragments~~ segments into multiple ~~segments~~ fragments; and
repetitively transmitting each segment of fragments in a respective encoded substream of data such that the fragments in the k th segment from the beginning of the data stream are transmitted with a maximum repetition period $p(k) = \tau (1 + \lambda)^k$, where $0 \leq \lambda \leq 0.5$.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each of said fragments contains the same amount of data from said stream.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said substreams are transmitted in a time-division multiplexed manner.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said substreams are transmitted in parallel.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 where $1/\lambda$ is in a range from about 3 to about 25.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one segment contains the maximum integral number of fragments that fit within the repetition period of the segment.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the fragments in said segment are transmitted in the same sequence during each repetitive transmission of the segment.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one segment contains less than the maximum integral number of fragments that fit within the maximum repetition period of the segment.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the fragments in said segment are transmitted in a different order during different respective transmissions of the segment.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the step of transmitting at least one additional substream in which every fragment of said data ~~stream~~ stream is transmitted with the same repetition period.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further including the step of selectively deleting the fragments in a portion of at least one of said segments in one of said encoded substreams.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein each deleted fragment is selected as one having a corresponding fragment present in an additional substream within a time window that is no greater than the repetition period of its segment from the occurrence of said fragment in each of the preceding and following segments in an encoded substream.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further including the step of aligning the segment from which fragments are deleted with the additional substream containing the corresponding fragments so that the first fragment to be deleted from the segment is aligned with any one of the fragments in the additional substream that corresponds to a deleted fragment.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein fragments are deleted from said encoded substreams so that all of said segment substreams have the same periodicity.
15. (Original) The method of claim 11, further including the steps of designating a last start time beyond which receipt of the complete data stream cannot be ensured, and transmitting no more than one copy of each fragment among said encoded substreams, beginning at said last start time, for a final transmission of the data stream.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein fragments which are contained in said additional substream after said last start time are omitted from said encoded substreams.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the fragments that are omitted are those which occur in the additional substream at a time no later than the time they would have occurred in the encoded substream.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said last start time precedes the end of the sequence of fragments transmitted on said additional substream by $T(\lambda N+1)$, where T is the length of the data stream, $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ and N is the number of encoded substreams.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said temporally ordered data comprises a media presentation, and each fragment contains no more than one second of the presentation.

20 – 49. (Cancelled)